

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

1 (800) 315-6338 (MEET) Code: 58756# (KUSKO)

Meeting Agenda

Date: **Monday, June 20, 2011**

Time: **10:00 am**

Place: **Bethel**

Time Called to Order

Chair

Time Adjourned

ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM:

QUORUM MET? Yes / No

Upriver Elder:

Processor:

Downriver Elder:

Member at Large:

Commercial Fisher:

Sport Fisher:

Lower River Subsistence:

Western Interior RAC:

Middle River Subsistence:

Y-K Delta RAC:

Upper River Subsistence:

ADF&G:

Headwaters Subsistence:

INTRODUCTIONS:

INVOCATION:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Subsistence Reports:
 - a. Lower River:
 - b. ONC Inseason Subsistence:
 - c. Middle River:
 - d. KNA Inseason Subsistence:
 - e. Upper River:
 - f. Headwaters:
2. Overview of Kuskokwim River salmon run assessment projects:
 - a. Bethel Test fish
 - b. Weirs/Sonar/Mark-Recapture/Aerial Surveys/Other:
3. Commercial Catch Report:
4. Processor Report:
5. Sport Fish Report:
6. Weather Forecast:
7. Recommendation:
8. Motion for Discussion and Action:

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Update on implementing a reporting system for salmon shipped out of Bethel.
- 2)

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1)
- 2)

COMMENTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

NEXT MEETING DATE: _____

Time

Place

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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Information Packet

June 20, 2011

Kuskokwim River In-season Subsistence Catch Monitoring Report Orutsarmiut Native Council

***Note:** Salmon Fishing was closed in the survey area for a Chinook conservation closure Thursday, June 16, through Sunday, June 19. Thus, this survey report reflects subsistence fishing effort for the time-period of Monday, June 13, through Wednesday, June 15.

Fishing reports from June 15 –June 18, 2011.

Families Surveyed	Families Fishing	Using Driftnets	Using Setnets	Both	Gillnets More than 6" mesh	Gillnets 6" mesh or less	Both
57	56	37	3	16	24	12	19

Compared with this time in a normal year, how are catch rates for salmon this week?

Chinook			Chum			Sockeye		
Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor
14	21	20	8	29	11	8	32	10

Does the salmon run appear to be running early, late, or normal?

Chinook			Chum			Sockeye		
Early	Normal	Late	Early	Normal	Late	Early	Normal	Late
10	27	16	10	30	7	7	35	6

Comments: 57 families were surveyed this week for the inseason subsistence monitoring program. 56 (98%) of the families were fishing this week. 1 (2%) of the family did not fish this week. 37 (66%) families reported using driftnets. 3 (5%) families reported using set nets. 16 (29%) families reported using both types of net. 24 (43%) of the families fishing used gill nets greater than 6-inch mesh. Most using greater than 6-inch mesh referred to using specifically 8-inch mesh (called "king gear"), but some indicated that they were using 7-inch gear. 12 (21%) of the families reported 6-inch mesh or less. 19 (34%) families reported using both large and small sizes of mesh.

The families interviewed this week were at various stages of fishing. The families that had begun fishing a day or two before the closure indicated that mid-June is when they normally start fishing. Other families indicated that they had started early or had increased their effort before the closure. These families met their subsistence Chinook harvest goals for the year or were satisfied with what they had. However, most families interviewed were mid-way through their salmon harvest goals and planned to resume fishing after the closure.

All families indicated that the weather had been good for drying fish and the flies had not yet come out. Several families who had just started fishing were concerned that the weather would become rainier later in June. They worried that fish caught after this week's closure may not dry properly and spoil if flies arrived to lay eggs. Their primary concern was the lack of flexibility to harvest fish when the weather was best for preserving them.

Many families reported that they had switched to smaller mesh gear to target the more abundant smaller Chinook. They also reported catching fewer females than usual. Some noted that they were just beginning to catch a few bigger Chinook in the last couple days and a greater percentage of females, which may indicate the arrival of what they referred to as the "second pulse." Many families were switching back and forth between mesh sizes or had different sized set nets and drift nets.

A few families specifically stated that they saw the Chinook conservation posters initiated by the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group. They said that they would make an effort to target more abundant sockeye using smaller mesh size throughout the entire season. Many families commented they understood the Chinook conservation measures being sought by the closure. Some interviewees commented that the population of Bethel was growing and they had never seen such a high level of congested drift and set net fishing on the Kuskokwim River in their lifetime as that of last week.

Chinook:

Catch rate: Of the 56 families fishing this week, 14 (25%) reported the Chinook catch as very good, 21 (38%) families reported the catch as normal, 20 (37%) families reported it as poor. Many fishers used 8-inch gear but others switched to smaller mesh (6-inch or 5.5 inch), in order to catch the smaller Chinook that were getting through the net. Many reported using both Chinook gear and 6-inch or less to increase their catch rate. Most noted they had better catch rates of Chinook with the smaller size mesh. A few fishers reported larger Chinook arriving a day or two before the closure. Many had fewer females in their catch than they normally would at this point in the run, but others think that females usually come in the "second pulse" instead.

Run timing: Of the 56 families that reported fishing this week, 10 (18%) reported the run as early, 27 (48%) reported the run timing as normal, 16 (29%) reported the run to be late this year. 3 (5%) families did not comment on run timing because they had just begun fishing and could not yet assess the flow of fish for this time period.

Chum:

Catch Rate: 8 (14%) families reported their catch rates as good. 29 (52%) families reported their catches as normal. 11 (20%) families reported their catches as poor. 8 (14%) families didn't report due to no chum catches yet or felt that catches were only a reflection of by-catch in 8-inch mesh.

Run timing: 10 (18%) families reported the run return as early. 30 (54%) families report the salmon run timing as normal. 7 (13%) families reported the run to be late compared to previous years. 9 (16%) families were unable to report due to no chum catches yet. Some people felt it was too early to comment on the timing or catch rate for chum, as they were not targeting them specifically.

Sockeye:

Catch Rate: 8 (14%) families reported their catch rates as good, 32 (57%) reported it as normal, 10 (18%) reported it as poor. 6 (11%) families didn't report due to not targeting sockeye yet. Some people reported sockeye catch rates as the normal rate of by-catch in their king gear.

Run timing: 7 (12%) families reported the run return as early, 35 (63%) reported timing as normal. 6 (11%) families reported the run to be late compared to previous years. 8 (14%) families were unable to report on run timing due to not specifically targeting sockeye yet.

ONC Inseason Subsistence Surveys Current and Historic Catch Rate Information, 2011

Summary of Subsistence Salmon Information Collected by ONC Technicians.

Responses from the question: "Compared with this time in a "Normal" year, how were catch rates for salmon this week"? "ND" indicates that no data was collected because respondents felt it was too early in the run to assess this information.

Year	Week Ending	Number of Families			Chinook salmon			Chum salmon			Sockeye salmon		
		Inter-viewed	Fishing	Not Fishing	Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor
2011	Jun 05	36	11	25	36%	36%	0	ND	ND	ND	9%	9%	0
	Jun 12	69	41	28	7%	34%	49%	10%	46%	10%	10%	46%	7%
	Jun 19	57	56	1	25%	38%	37%	14%	52%	20%	14%	57%	18%
2010	Jun 06	19	6	13	0	100%	0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 13	39	28	11	4%	50%	46%	0	72%	28%	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 20	26	23	3	9%	65%	26%	0	100%	0	0	96%	4%
	Jun 27	37	37	0	3%	73%	24%	3%	92%	5%	5%	81%	14%
	Jul 04	38	36	2	8%	69%	22%	14%	78%	8%	3%	69%	28%
	Jul 11	20	11	9	0	91%	0%	27%	64%	0	18%	55%	18%
2009	Jun 07	20	6	14	0	67%	33%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 14	43	38	5	29%	50%	21%	0	100%	0	0	100%	0
	Jun 21	44	44	0	41%	36%	23%	0	100%	0	0	86%	14%
	Jun 28	36	31	5	39%	55%	6%	3%	77%	9%	6%	71%	23%
	Jul 05	36	5	31	0	100%	0	0	100%	0	0	100%	0
	Jul 12	36	2	34	0	100%	0	0	100%	0	0	100%	0
2008	Jun 08	27	5	22	20%	60%	0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 16	34	17	17	0	76%	24%	0	100%	0	0	100%	0
	Jun 22	32	27	5	56%	44%	0	0	74%	26%	81%	19%	0
	Jun 29	33	27	6	52%	48%	0	15%	85%	0	56%	44%	0
	Jul 08	35	15	20	20%	80%	0	0	100%	0	47%	53%	0
	Jul 13	32	3	29	0	100%	0	33%	67%	0	0	100%	0
2007	Jun 03	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 12	39	28	11	0	29%	71%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 17	40	33	7	0	30%	70%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 24	44	40	4	0	35%	65%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jul 02	36	20	12	45%	45%	10%	80%	20%	0	0	40	60%
	Jul 08	33	10	23	60%	40%	0	80%	20%	0	30%	70%	0
	Jul 14	33	6	27	0	0	100	0	33%	67%	0	17%	83%
2006	Jun 03	22	0	22	0	0	0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 10	32	19	13	32%	68%	0	0	0	0	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 17	36	30	6	60%	40%	0	60%	40%	0	53%	47%	0
	Jun 25	48	43	5	79%	21%	0	91%	9%	0	19%	56%	26%
	Jul 02	46	14	32	21%	79%	0	71%	29%	0	43%	57%	0
	Jul 09	38	8	30	0	100%	0	25%	75%	0	37%	63%	0
	Jul 17	26	5	21	0	100%	0	100	0	0	0	100%	0

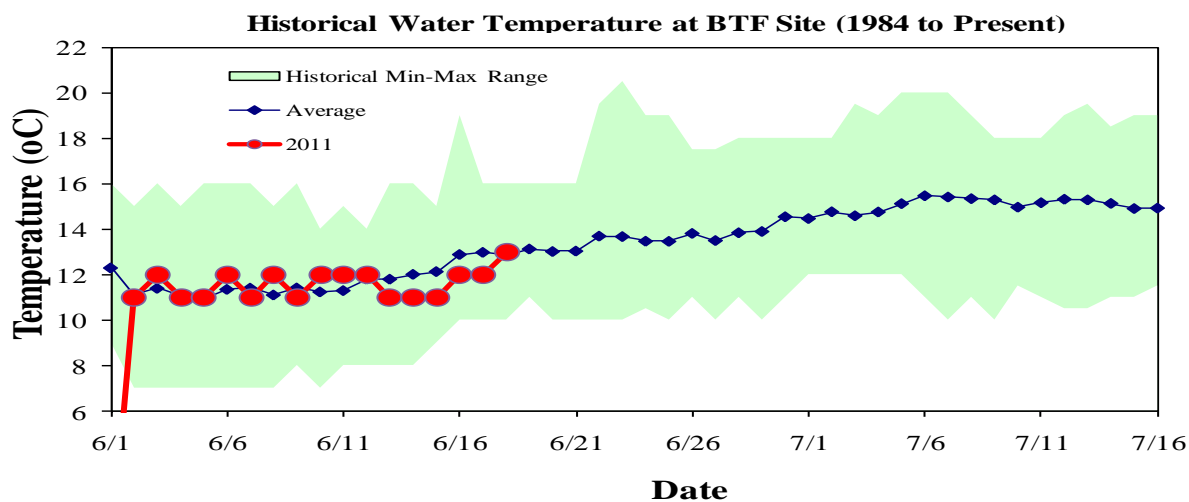
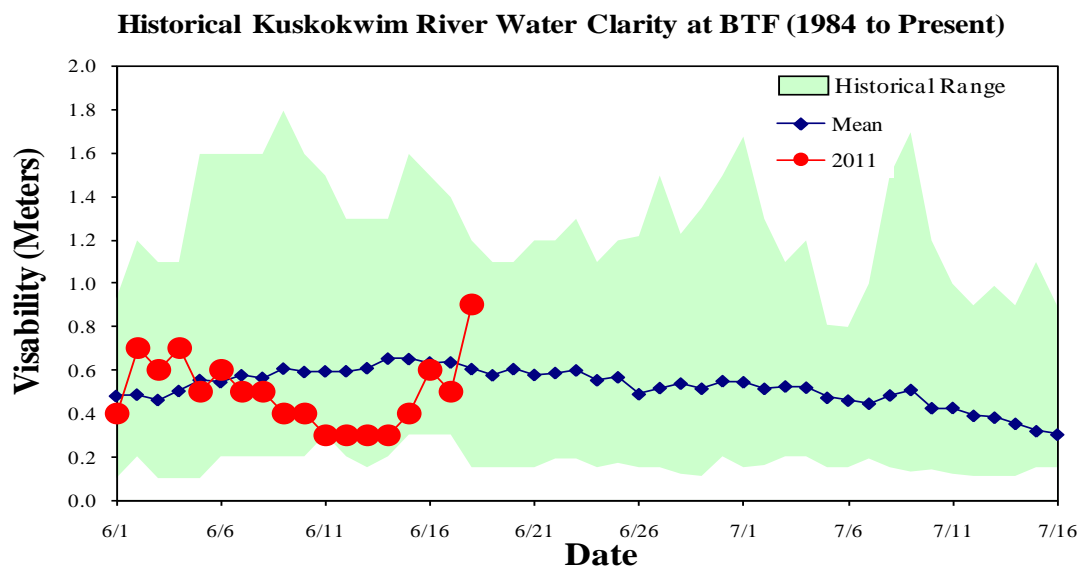
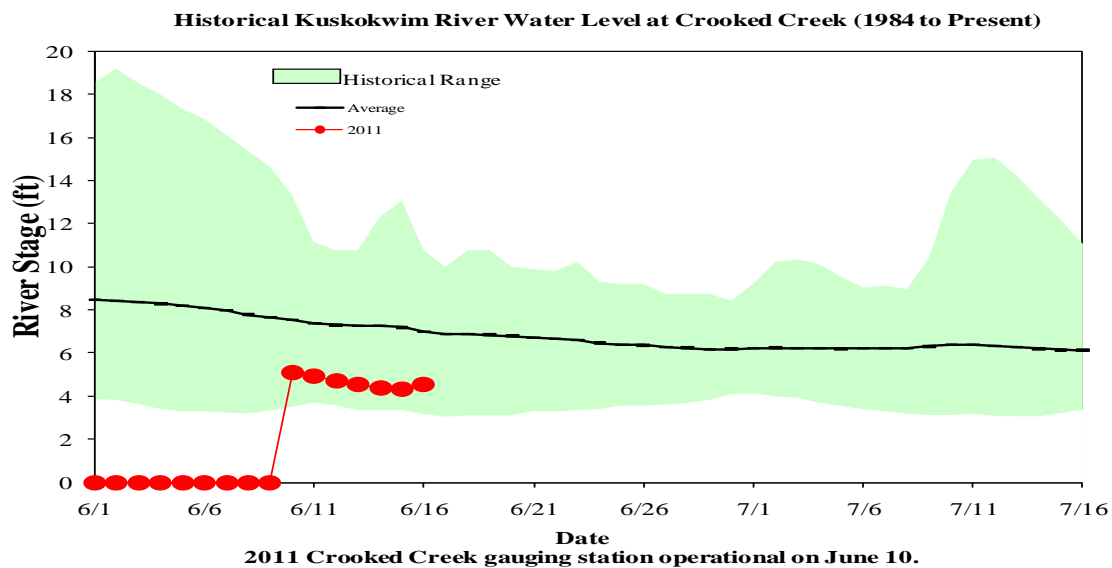
KNA Weekly Subsistence Fishing Report June 11-17, 2011

Village	Name	Fishing Y/N	Gear Type	Mesh Size	Species Type:	How does the run compare to recent years? *NR= no response	Average # fish caught daily:
Kalskag	Family A	Yes	Drift Net	Dog Net	Sockeye	Below Average	0
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Started fishing just recently, said that they caught 5 small kings, a couple chum, and a couple Shee fish. Fishing is way below average. Commented that the Commercial fishing should slow down near the mouth of the Kuskokwim.						
					Chinook	Below Average	5 week total
					Coho	Below Average	0
					Chum	Below Average	2 week total
	Family B	Yes	Set Net	?	Sockeye	NR	0
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Hasn't caught any fish in the set net so far.						
					Chinook	NR	0
					Coho	NR	0
					Chum	NR	0
	Family C	Yes	Set Net	?	Sockeye	Below Average	0
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Caught 13 kings and 1 Shee fish. Hasn't been catching very much, below average.						
					Chinook	Below Average	13 week total
Coho					Below Average	0	
Chum					Below Average	0	

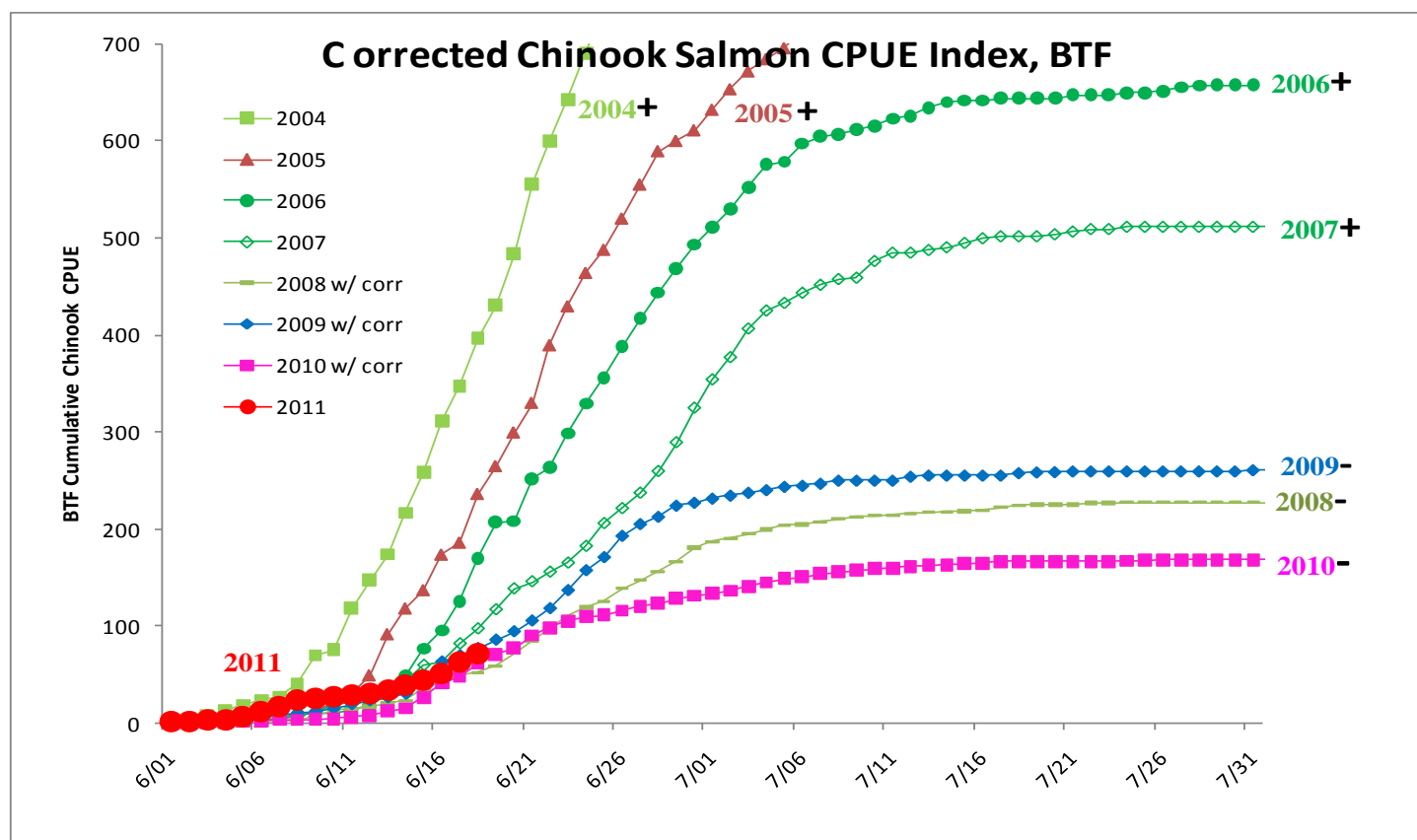
Village	Name	Fishing Y/N	Gear Type	Mesh Size	Species Type:	How does the run compare to recent years? *NR= no response	Average # fish caught daily:
Aniak	Family D	Yes	Drift Net	7"	Sockeye	Below Average	0
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Made 3 drifts on Monday caught 0, Tuesday made 2 drifts caught 0, Wednesday made 3 drifts caught 2 jack Kings. Adequate weather. Said the fishing is terrible. Been fishing since 1981 never had so many drifts and catch nothing. Hopefully closer will give upriver more fish.						
					Chinook	Below Average	2 week total
					Coho	Below Average	0
					Chum	Below Average	0
	Family E	Yes	Drift Net	7"	Sockeye	Below Average	0
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Drifted once yesterday caught 1 small king.						
					Chinook	Below Average	1 week total
					Coho	Below Average	0
					Chum	Below Average	0
	Family F	Yes	Drift Net	6"	Sockeye	Below Average	0
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Saturday: 1 king, 1 Dog. Fishing is below average.						
					Chinook	Below Average	1 week total
					Coho	Below Average	0
					Chum	Below Average	1 week total
Chuathbaluk	Family G	Yes	Drift Net	7 1/4"	Sockeye	NR	1 week total
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Fished on Monday and Wednesday caught a total of 3 small kings, 2 chums, and 1 red. Not sure if its average fishing. CHU usually starts getting fish about this time.						
					Chinook	NR	3 week total
					Coho	NR	0
					Chum	NR	2 week total
	Family H	Yes	Drift Net	?	Sockeye	Below Average	0
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Sunday: caught 6 small kings and 6 sheefish. Wednesday: No fish. Haven't fished since then. Said fishing is below average. The run never really hit yet.						
					Chinook	Below Average	6 week total
					Coho	Below Average	0
					Chum	Below Average	0

Village	Name	Fishing Y/N	Gear Type	Mesh Size	Species Type:	How does the run compare to recent years? *NR= no response	Average # fish caught daily:	
Crooked Creek	Family I	Yes	Drift Net	7"	Sockeye	Average	0	
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Made one drift since last contacted. Good weather hopefully means good fishing. Thanks for closure downriver, upriver needs some fish too.							
					Chinook	Average	2 week total	
					Coho	Average	0	
					Chum	Average	2 week total	
	Family J	Yes	Drift Net	5 3/4"	Sockeye	NR	0	
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Fished on the 11th and on the 14th caught a total of 2 kings and 1 chum. Can't tell if it's normal or below fishing yet but seems like it. Said that they think commercial fishing cleaned out the river.							
					Chinook	NR	2 week total	
					Coho	NR	0	
					Chum	NR	1 week total	
Sleetmute	Family K	Yes	Set Net	?	Sockeye	NR	0	
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 11th: caught 1 pike 12th: caught 1 lush and 2 pike. People have been catching kings up that way. Too early to tell if the fish run is normal or not.							
					Chinook	NR	0	
					Coho	NR	0	
					Chum	NR	0	
Stony River	Family L	Yes	Fish Wheel		Sockeye	Below Average	0	
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Fish wheel has been going daily averaging 1-2 fish a day. 6 small white fish so far. No salmon yet, used to catch lots by now. Fishing is Below Average. Said the cup used to be full by now but the cup is 1/4 from empty. Not getting better.							
					Chinook	Below Average	0	
					Coho	Below Average	0	
					Chum	Below Average	0	
	KNA Comments: The following participant families have not started fishing yet: Sleetmute (1 family contacted), Chuathbaluk (1 family contacted), Kalskag (1 family contacted).							
	The following participant families have not been able to contact: Aniak (1 family), McGrath (1 family).							

Overview of Kuskokwim River Salmon Run Assessment Projects



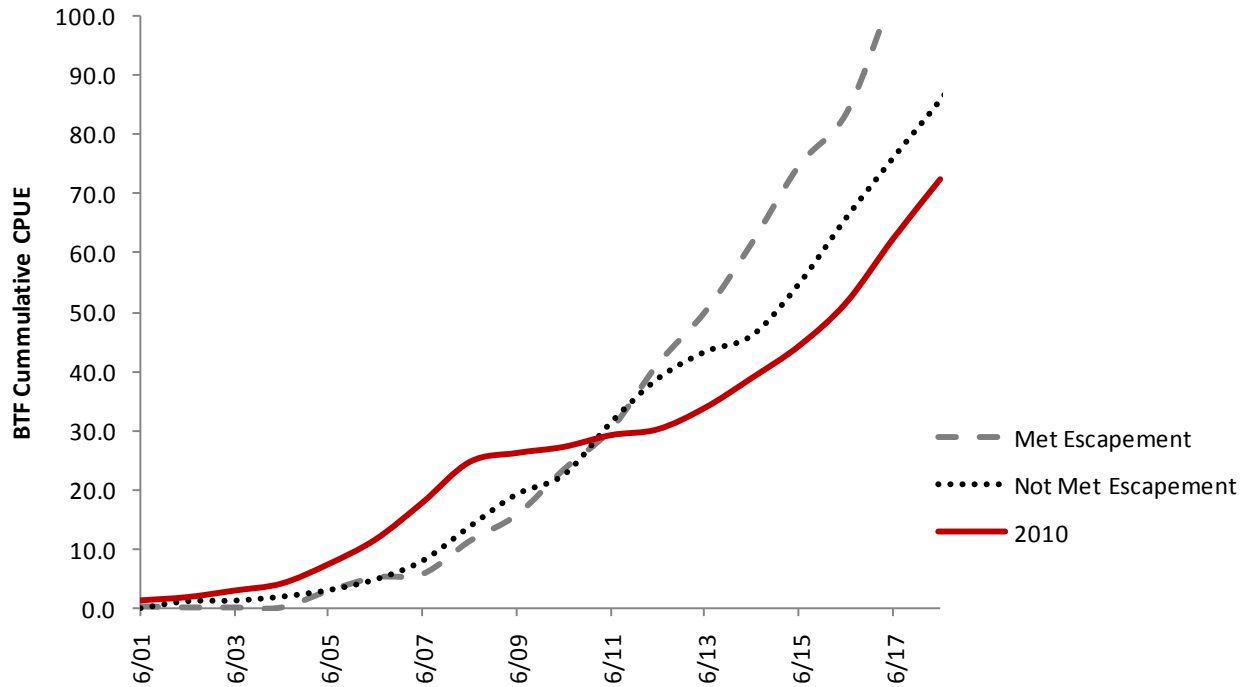
Bethel Test Fishery



Corrected Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, BTF

Date	Uncorrected				Corrected (*0.37)			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
6/01	3		0	0	0	0	0	1
6/02	5		0	0	1	0	1	2
6/03	7	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
6/04	13	0	0	1	1	2	2	4
6/05	19	1	3	3	1	4	2	7
6/06	23	1	6	3	2	6	3	12
6/07	27	6	6	4	2	9	3	18
6/08	40	7	8	7	4	11	3	25
6/09	70	11	9	11	7	12	4	26
6/10	75	23	9	19	13	15	4	27
6/11	118	30	14	23	15	19	6	29
6/12	147	49	18	30	17	23	8	30
6/13	174	91	33	33	21	26	12	34
6/14	217	118	48	42	23	30	15	39
6/15	258	137	77	60	35	42	27	44
6/16	311	173	96	62	42	63	41	52
6/17	347	186	126	82	50	70	48	62
6/18	396	236	170	97	52	77	62	72
6/19	430	265	207	117	59	86	71	
6/20	484	299	208	138	72	95	77	
6/21	556	330	252	146	85	106	90	
6/22	600	389	263	156	97	118	99	
6/23	643	430	298	165	110	137	105	
6/24	691	464	329	182	119	158	109	
6/25	738	488	356	206	126	171	111	

In season BTF Chinook CPUE compared to 95% "Meet" Lower CI and "Not Meet" Upper CI



- This figure only shows the lower CI line for meeting escapement (gray dashed), and the Upper CI line for not meeting escapement (black dotted), because they describe the trigger values.
- The solid line is 2011 BTF Chinook corrected CPUE.
- The value for further restrictions on June 11 = 31.4; June 12 = 38.9; June 13 = 43.4.
 - If inseason values are less than these values further restriction is warranted.

Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
6/01		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/02		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/03		0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/04		0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/05	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/06	0	9	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	3
6/07	0	9	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	4
6/08	0	9	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	4
6/09	3	9	3	5	8	11	0	0	0	4	0	4
6/10	6	11	8	24	11	22	0	0	0	4	0	7
6/11	20	11	18	38	22	46	0	0	0	7	0	10
6/12	31	17	35	46	27	63	3	3	0	10	3	13
6/13	37	23	61	54	38	96	3	17	3	13	6	15
6/14	45	23	67	67	49	149	3	23	6	13	6	24
6/15	48	26	92	97	77	154	11	31	34	16	21	33
6/16	51	38	138	176	130	181	24	36	45	31	46	62
6/17	57	100	158	279	145	236	42	50	48	34	65	102
6/18	71	123	174	335	189	336	81	60	62	61	84	126
6/19	91	152	196	446	212	444	136	74	87	86	142	
6/20	108	166	240	518	270	634	160	98	102	113	149	
6/21	146	219	272	585	364	866	219	147	128	146	251	
6/22	172	249	290	646	509	1,056	239	186	237	171	323	
6/23	395	465	325	670	628	1,239	350	197	320	251	347	
6/24	461	706	346	718	833	1,370	422	290	381	340	366	
6/25	499	754	353	771	966	1,489	454	338	455	429	375	

Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
6/01		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/02		0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/03		0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/04		0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	4	3
6/05	3	3	0	0	11	0	3	0	0	3	6	3
6/06	9	3	8	0	11	0	9	0	0	4	6	3
6/07	9	3	8	0	11	0	9	3	0	4	6	3
6/08	12	3	11	0	14	0	12	3	6	6	6	6
6/09	15	3	41	0	22	0	12	3	9	9	6	11
6/10	18	3	50	6	22	0	15	8	9	9	9	17
6/11	18	3	103	8	25	13	35	11	12	9	9	22
6/12	18	3	146	11	34	25	41	11	18	12	15	22
6/13	18	9	180	17	71	38	133	23	18	14	26	31
6/14	18	9	202	30	110	49	210	34	20	20	31	39
6/15	18	9	285	49	144	87	266	57	41	42	50	60
6/16	18	11	299	77	179	95	350	74	66	69	86	63
6/17	20	17	338	103	229	131	499	94	80	75	133	85
6/18	29	53	552	108	310	188	747	110	94	91	386	135
6/19	43	67	665	148	371	252	927	138	106	99	542	
6/20	86	73	801	198	450	537	1012	258	161	105	588	
6/21	124	73	836	226	547	844	1482	343	190	135	764	
6/22	155	78	903	235	659	1288	1595	407	264	149	954	
6/23	224	98	1047	270	959	1587	1916	506	337	301	1049	
6/24	250	183	1181	291	1260	1817	2188	632	437	397	1163	
6/25	324	346	1329	312	1583	1918	2412	840	598	532	1224	

Weirs/Sonar/Mark-Recapture/Aerial Surveys/Other

Kuskokwim Salmon Assessment projects are on schedule and beginning operations:

- Kwethluk and Tuluksak River weirs will begin installation when river depths reach a manageable working level.
- George and Tatlawiksuk River weirs began operation on the 16th and 15th of June respectively. Small numbers of salmon have been observed passing the weirs.
- Kogrukluks and Takotna weir crews are onsite and proceeding with installation
- Aniak Sonar crews are onsite and proceeding with installation.
- Kalskag fishwheels:

Kalskag Fish Wheels Daily Catch Summary				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Chinook</u>	<u>Chum</u>	<u>Sockeye</u>	<u>Coho</u>
6/8/2011	4	1	0	0
6/9/2011	3	1	0	0
6/10/2011	1	0	1	0
6/11/2011	6	2	0	0
6/12/2011	11	3	1	0
6/13/2011	2	2	2	0
6/14/2011	4	1	0	0
6/15/2011	No Fishing			
6/16/2011	0	0	0	0
6/17/2011	0	0	0	0
6/18/2011	4	3	0	0
6/19/2011				
6/20/2011				

